

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /033 W

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R 281500Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2814

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12382

E.O. 11652: GDS, DECEMBER 31, 1981

TAGS: SOPN, IT

SUBJECT: MICHELE SINDONA

1. NEARLY ALL OF ITALY'S MAJOR NEWSPAPERS CARRIED THIS MORNING'S AP PHOTO OF FINANCIER MICHELE SINDONA RECEIVING THE "FREEDOM AWARD" FROM THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, WITH VARIOUS INFLUENTIAL ITALO-AMERICANS LOOKING ON APPROVINGLY. SINCE LEFTIST ITALIAN PRESS HAS GLEEFULLY PUBLICIZED SINDONA'S ALLEGED BUT NON-EXISTENT "FRIENDSHIP" WITH AMBASSADOR VOLPE AS EVIDENCE OF EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH UNSAVORY CHARACTERS, PICTURES OF THIS SORT REINFORCE DISTORTED AND INACCURATE STEREOTYPES.

2. EMBASSY AWARE THAT SINDONA'S STATUS REGARDING EXTRADITION AND INDICTABLE OFFENSES HAS NOT BEEN CLARIFIED LEGALLY AND ALSO THAT SINDONA ENTITLED TO PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE. HOWEVER, AWARD CEREMONY SEEMS OBVIOUS ATTEMPT BY SINDONA TO DRUM UP POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR HIS SITUATION.

3. WE ASSUME AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE HAS NO CONNECTION WITH OR SANCTION FROM THE NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION. POST WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING EXACT STATUS AND RELATIONSHIP OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS TO BE ABLE TO REFUTE THE IMPRESSION HERE THAT THERE WAS THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION WITH THE IMPLICATION OF USG APPROVAL OF SINDONA AND HIS PAST ACTIVITIES. VOLPE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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